WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of preventing or treating an amyloidogenic disease in a patient, comprising administering to the patient an effective dosage of an antibody that binds to a component of an amyloid deposit in the patient.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the disease is Alzheimer's disease.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the component is Aβ.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the disease is Down's syndrome.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the patient is human.

6. The method of any of claims 1-9 , wherein the antibody specifically binds to an epitope within residues 1-12 of Aβ.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the patient is asymptomatic.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the patient is under 50.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein the patient has inherited risk factors indicating susceptibility to Alzheimer's disease.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein the patient has no known risk factors for Alzheimer's disease.

11. The method of claim 1, wherein the antibody is a human antibody.

12. The method of claim 1, wherein the antibody is a humanized antibody.

13. The method of claim 1, wherein the antibody is a mouse antibody.

14. The method of claim 1, wherein the antibody is a polyclonal antibody.

15. The method of claim 1, wherein the antibody is a monoclonal antibody.

16. The method of claim 12 or 13,, wherein the isotype of the antibody is IgG1.

17. The method of claim 1, wherein the isotype of the antibody is IgG1 or IgG4.

18. The method of claim 1, wherein the isotype of the antibody is IgG2 or IgG3.

19. The method of claim 1, wherein the antibody comprises two pairs of light and heavy chains.

20. The method of claim 1, wherein the dosage of antibody is 0.01 to 5 mg/kg body weight of the patient.

21. The method of claim 1, wherein the antibody is administered with a carrier as a pharmaceutical composition.

22. The method of claim 1, wherein the antibody specifically binds to Aβ peptide without binding to full-length amyloid precursor protein (APP).

23. The method of claim 1, wherein the antibody is administered intraperitoneally, orally, intranasally, subcutaneously, intramuscularly, topically or intravenously.

24. The method of claim 1, wherein the antibody is administered by administering a polynucleotide encoding at least one antibody chain to the patient, wherein the polynucleotide is expressed to produce the antibody chain in the patient.

25. The method of claim 24, wherein the polynucleotide encodes heavy and light chains of the antibody, which polynucleotide is expressed to produce the heavy and light chains in the patient.

26. The method of claim 1, further comprising monitoring the patient for level of administered antibody in the blood of the patient.

27. A pharmaceutical composition comprising an antibody that specifically binds to a component of an amyloid deposit and a pharmaceutical carrier.

28. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 27, wherein the antibody is a human or humanized antibody.

29. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 27 or 28, wherein the antibody specifically binds to Aβ.

30. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 29, wherein the antibody specifically binds to an epitope within residues 1-12 of Aβ.

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